



S 11/9 3606 #9

Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0124

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Anthony F. MENNINGER, et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND
COMPUTER PROGRAM
PRODUCT FOR FREIGHT
MANAGEMENT IN A SUPPLY
CHAIN FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/816,121

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2176

REPLY TO RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We refer to your "Response To Request For Corrected Filing Receipt" mailed on October 28, 2002 (copy attached) in the above-identified application. Please be advised that we have requested that the same title that appears on the first page of the specification, should also appear in the Filing Receipt.

Copies of the first page of the specification as filed and a copy of the erroneous Filing Receipt are attached for your convenience. Issuance of a corrected Filing Receipt is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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Date November 13, 2002

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Should any fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

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5 **SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR FREIGHT
MANAGEMENT IN A SUPPLY CHAIN FRAMEWORK**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 10 The present invention relates to information storage and processing systems, and more particularly, relates to the management of supply chains using such systems.

15 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Many types of manufacturing database management and inventory control systems exist today. Each of these systems views the process from the narrow viewpoint of the goals of such a system. For example, inventory control processes tend to determine when the inventory of an item is projected to be depleted and when to order goods to prevent such depletion. The inventory control process does not generally take into account the problems associated with availability of materials and machines to satisfy the inventory demand. On the other hand, the manufacturing control process considers the availability problem but does not take into account the effect of a sales promotion that will deplete an inventory faster than projected. A marketing department in preparing a sales promotion will often not consider the effect that promotion will have on availability, inventory and profit margin but tends to focus on sales goals. What is needed is a system that will support managers with each of these view points in understanding the effect of the various decisions that can be made on the supply chain as a whole both currently and into the near future.